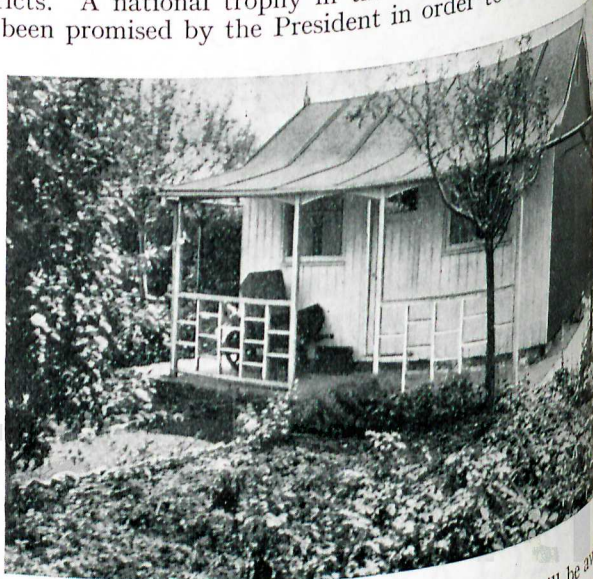


No doubt many readers of the JOURNAL had brought to notice the letter addressed by the President to secretaries of and District bodies about cleaning up allotments.

In this letter they were asked to consider launching competition with the object of improving the appearance of allotments in districts. A national trophy in the form of a Fifty Guinea has been promised by the President in order to introduce



Model Hut

rivalry between one district and another, and this will be a great help to the one which effects the greatest improvements in the course of a year.

Some very encouraging letters have already been received from secretaries, and these appear to indicate that both the secretaries and their committees have entered whole-heartedly into the spirit of the thing and are quite willing to do everything which is required to improve the thing and are quite willing to do everything which is required to improve the thing and are quite willing to do everything which is required to improve the thing.

Now you might well ask: "Why should we be so deeply concerned with the untidiness on allotments, seeing that the tenure of allotments is so unspeakably bad?"

Well, that is just the reason why we are so deeply concerned about the matter.

Whenever our representatives try to get the tenure of allotments improved, those which are really bad and an eyesore are always "quoted in evidence" against them. Of course, we have a right to answer, but how much better it would be if we were able to answer our opponents of this weapon with which they fight us.

What we must do is to convince local authorities and the public that it is possible to make allotments not only neat and

but attractive as well, and what is, perhaps, of greater importance still, remove the prejudice which exists in the public mind against them.

Remember that if you cannot afford a new hut—and we know that many of you cannot—a bit of touching up here and there and perhaps the judicious use of a bit of roofing felt or similar substance, plus a coat of tar, will often work wonders.

If this is not practicable, a rambler rose of the evergreen type, such as Alberic Barbier or Emily Gray; a few quick-growing shrubs or creepers, or even a bit of lattice-work, will hide a good deal and create a pleasing effect.

But, as the President pointed out in his letter, it is not always the erections on allotments which are the cause of offence. Kidney bean rods and pea sticks left in position throughout the winter, often leaning over it at an acute angle; potato haulms and rubbish of every conceivable kind blowing about—these are

some of the things which all plot-holders can remedy.

The individual plot-holder must not, however, be held entirely responsible for the general appearance of the allotments which he cultivates. Dilapidated fences and gates; neglected ditches; rutty and unkept main avenues—these are the responsibility of the association, the council or the landlord.

We learn that a very effective non-poisonous weed-killer is now being used to keep down grass and weeds on main avenues. A small quantity is mixed with water and applied with a sprinkling-can. This substance is a foreign product called sodium chlorate and is marketed by Messrs. Chance and Hunt, Ltd., 5, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.3.

It can, we believe, only be obtained in rather large quantities, so Associations or Councils would have to purchase.

There appears to be no danger attached to the use of this substance, so far as we can ascertain, except that if it gets on the clothing it gives off a rather highly inflammable gas when the garments begin to dry. A calm day should therefore be chosen to



Ramshackle Hut